

Only one ticket for top UA spots

To encourage competition, UA extends filing deadline

By Meghan Nelson
STAFF REPORTER

Only one pair of candidates has officially registered to run for Undergraduate Association President and Vice President this spring. In response, the UA has extended its late petition deadline for the presidential/vice presidential race to Thursday, March 4.

The candidates are two UA senators, Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 of East Campus, who is running for president; and Samantha G. Wyman '11 of Burton-Conner, who is running for vice president.

Election Commissioner Sun Kim '10 decided to extend the registration deadline this weekend. Kim said he wanted to give more candidates the chance to run in order to encourage the spirit of competition.

The extended deadline would

"give time to those who were on the fence" to decide to run, Kim said. Official campaigning begins Wednesday, and by setting the deadline for Thursday, late candidates still have time to campaign before the UA President/Vice President Debate on Sunday.

Kim said that no one has contacted him directly about submitting late petitions, but that does not mean people won't still sign up.

Even if Modi and Wyman remain the only official candidates, write-in candidates could still have a chance of winning. Kim said even write-in candidates can run a strong campaign, mentioning the third place finish last year of write-in candidates Abdulaziz M. Albahar '10 and Tewfik R. Cassis '10. Write-in candidates may also campaign, but they are still

UA Elections, Page 9



GREG STEINBRECHER—THE TECH

Vrajesh Modi '11 and Samantha Wyman '11 are currently the only pair running for the positions of Undergraduate Association President and Vice President. Both currently represent their living groups as senators. The deadline to file to run for President or Vice President has been extended to March 4.

Can't wipe these memories away



YUANYU CHEN—THE TECH

Minmin Yen '11 dodges a roll of toilet paper as she sings a modified version of "Zombie" by The Cranberries during the Chorallaries' 11th Annual Concert in Bad Taste in 26-100 on Saturday. Throwing toilet paper and paper airplanes before and during the concert is a Bad Taste tradition.

Three members of Tau Epsilon Phi named in suit

Suit involves Clean Up Boat 2007 sodium explosion

By Yuliya Preger
STAFF REPORTER

Three members of MIT's chapter of Tau Epsilon Phi (tEp) have been named defendants in a lawsuit by volunteers for the Charles River Clean Up Boat explosion

regarding a sodium explosion in September 2007.

In a January 26 subpoena presented to the Division of Student Life, plaintiffs Thomas Soisson and Katherine Nardin requested docu-

ments relating to the tEp sodium and potassium drops. Soisson and Nardin sustained injuries in 2007 while volunteering with the Clean Up Boat. Volunteers picked up a piece of sodium, which later exploded.

The lawsuit names Bhaskar Mookerji G, Brian Neltner G, and Matthew T. Peddie '09 of tEp as defendants. Neltner was cited both individually and in his capacity as an officer, while Peddie was named solely in his capacity as an officer.

It is unclear what "in his capacity as an officer" means, said Mookerji. Mookerji declined to

comment further on the case.

The subpoena to DSL requests "any and all documents, reports, and records in the possession custody and control" of DSL relating to the tEp sodium and potassium drops.

According to the Charles River Clean Up Boat's website, on the day of the incident, one of the volunteers retrieved an item which resembled a rough piece of styrofoam. After the object was placed in a trash bin full of wet debris, it began to smoke. Ultimately, the

TEP, Page 9

IN SHORT

Pre-sales for the Spring Weekend Concert, featuring N.E.R.D and Super Mash Brothers, started yesterday at <http://sao.mit.edu/tickets/>. The pre-sale period ends March 19, after which tickets for students go from \$10 to \$15. The concert is on April 23.

The 2010 MIT Excellence Awards Ceremony is tomorrow at 3 pm in Kresge Auditorium.

The Building 54 strobe light is back, after being broken for the past several months.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

Back-end changes coming to Stellar

Alternatives to Stellar's software architecture being investigated

By Pearle Lipinski
NEWS EDITOR

The software architecture behind Stellar, MIT's course management system, is likely to change within the next year, while user interface will mostly stay the same. Pilot changes to the system may be implemented over the summer, said Eric Klopfer, Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee on Learning Management Systems, which is tasked with developing the next version of Stellar, called Stellar

Next Generation.

While there are no plans to replace Stellar in the immediate future, it is likely that the underlying system will be fully replaced within the next few years.

"The existing Stellar is reaching some limits in terms of capacity, pedagogical models, and use cases. As a home grown system, it has become resource intensive to scale, change, support and maintain, so in the long run it will likely be replaced," said Klopfer.

The planned changes would not radically affect the users of Stellar. Most changes would be under-the-hood modifications involving Stellar's software architecture. According to Klopfer, the new Stellar could maintain its old appearance, but run on a third-party platform, such as the proprietary Blackboard or open-source Moodle. IS&T would maintain and perform custom work on the third-party code to suit Stellar's needs.

The LMS Committee has not yet decided which of these plat-

forms would be used, but hopes to have a decision by the end of the academic year.

If the summer pilot were to be implemented with the new platform, it would likely just be an internal pilot with sample courses used exclusively for testing. A pilot program involving actual courses is not likely for some time, Klopfer said.

In the meantime, the current generation of Stellar will continue to be maintained and used.

Stellar, Page 10

WHAT HAPPENED TO COMPETITION?

The lack of other UA presidential candidates is a serious failure of the democratic process. **OPN, p. 4**

TOP TEN OLYMPIC MOMENTS

Canadians win hockey gold, Yuna Kim dazzles, and more. **SPO, p. 12**

MEN'S BASKETBALL FALTERS

The men lose to Clark. Will they pick it up for the Div III tourney? **SPO, p. 12**



VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

How do you deal with a failed relationship's digital detritus? **CL, p. 5**

BROUHAHA RHYTHM

Puddles, puddles everywhere! The trials of keeping dry when campus becomes an archipelago. **CL, p. 5**

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Data shows Toyota Camrys not recalled also had problems

By Bill Vlasic
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Toyota has recalled 6 million cars in the United States over concerns about sudden acceleration. But an analysis of government documents shows that many Toyota Camrys built before 2007, which were not subject to recalls, have been linked to a comparable number of speed-control problems as recalled Camrys.

While owners of all makes of vehicles have filed complaints with the government about speed control problems, the analysis — based on a review of 12,700 complaint records in the United States over the last decade by The New York Times — reveals that Toyota had more complaints involving crashes than any other carmaker.

Many of the complaints were about vehicles not covered by recalls.

The 2002 Camry, for example, had about 175 speed-control complaints. Roughly half of those involved crashes.

By comparison, the 2007 Camry,

which was recalled, was the subject of about 200 speed-control complaints, with fewer than a quarter of those resulting in accidents.

In all, federal safety regulators said they had received complaints alleging that unintended acceleration in Toyota vehicles caused 34 deaths.

In his congressional testimony last week, James E. Lentz III, the president of Toyota Motor Sales USA, noted that other auto manufacturers had had complaints of sudden acceleration.

Of the 12,700 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration consumer complaints analyzed by The Times, the Ford Motor Co. had the most, about 3,500.

Toyota ranked second, with about 3,000 complaints, but those were linked to far more accidents — 1,000 — compared to 450 crashes for Ford.

All told, from 2000 through 2009, Toyota had one speed-control crash complaint per 20,454 vehicles sold in the United States. Ford had one complaint per 64,679 vehicles. Honda had one per 70,112 and GM

one per 179,821.

Asked about The Times’ findings, a Toyota spokesman said on Monday that pre-2007 Camrys had been investigated and cleared of defects in three previous inquiries by the safety agency.

“At the conclusion of these investigations, no specific evidence of a trend regarding safety issues was found,” said Brian Lyons, the spokesman.

A separate examination by The Times of Transport Ministry records in Japan revealed a similar finding. In reports since 2001, Toyota vehicles have been cited with a greater frequency in complaints of sudden acceleration than those of other major carmakers.

The Times’ analysis of complaints in the United States covered those filed since 2000 involving all makes and models of cars manufactured this decade. A complaint about speed control may indicate that the vehicle accelerated excessively or inadequately.

The single largest source of these complaints was the 2007 model Camry.

In California, a divided Republican Party smells blood

By Adam Nagourney
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BURBANK, CALIF. — If Republicans are to have a serious chance of capturing control of the U.S. Senate in November, they must win in traditionally Democratic states like California, where Sen. Barbara Boxer, a three-term Democrat, is showing signs of vulnerability.

But before Republicans get a clear shot at Boxer, they will have to overcome deep divisions within their own party — divides that reflect both the grass-roots energy surging through the conservative movement and the tensions between the party’s moderate and conservative wings.

There are certainly more vulnerable Democratic Senate seats in the country, but early polls in California suggest that Boxer is facing what could be the toughest election of her career. Her difficulties in a state that has for 20 years proved reliably Democratic in national elec-

tions suggests how the pendulum has swung against Democrats in just a year. Her potential problems are a function more of this political climate than of any position or vote she has taken.

Still, for Republicans, this could end up being a repeat of a play they have seen before: a promising opportunity escaping them in a state where Democrats have the edge of 1.5 million more voters registered.

Three Republican candidates are in a lacerating battle for their party’s nomination: Carly Fiorina, the wealthy former chief executive of Hewlett-Packard; Tom Campbell, a former member of Congress who fits the moderate profile for the kind of Republican who has won statewide contests in the past; and Charles S. DeVore, a state assemblyman who is presenting himself as the Tea Party candidate.

It is hard to see how Republicans could win control of the Senate without toppling Boxer. Democrats control the chamber 59-41; Repub-

licans need 10 seats to take control, since in an evenly divided Senate, Vice President Joe Biden would cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of the Democrats. Eight Democratic seats are considered vulnerable, but Republicans must hold on to at least four of their own seats that appear vulnerable. Even if Republicans won all those highly contested races, they would still need two more victories, and at the moment California might be their best chance to expand the battlefield.

Democrats fear that a Supreme Court decision allowing corporations to spend freely on political campaigns could encourage a flood of advertising against Boxer.

She is clearly aware of the threat to her re-election and has moved forcefully to deal with it. She has already raised nearly \$11 million.

“If you’re asking me if Republicans have a chance to beat me, I’m going to answer this way: I never take any election for granted,” Boxer said in an interview.

Despite readiness for quake, Chile struggles as rescue efforts continue

By Alexei Barrionuevo
and Marc Lacey
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ANGOL, CHILE — Chile’s government, after initially waving off outside aid, changed course Monday as the devastation from the powerful earthquake sunk in and the nation’s pressing needs became clear.

With the desperation of many Chileans mounting, the United Nations said that the government had asked for generators, water filtration equipment and field hospitals, as well as experts to assess just how much damage was caused by Saturday’s earthquake.

Chile has always been considered Latin America’s most earthquake-ready country. Its children learn to run for cover during quake drills before learning to read. Its building codes are robust. Its disaster manual is thick, laying out all the scenarios for the temblors that are a

regular part of life.

But despite all that, the powerful quake that jolted Chileans awake has left the country reeling. Collapsed bridges and damaged roadways have made it difficult to even get to some areas. Downed phone lines and cellular towers have made it impossible to communicate. And many residents in the most damaged areas have not only taken food from supermarkets, but also robbed banks, set fires and engaged in other forms of lawlessness.

The quake has also exposed the fact, experts say, that although Chile is one of the most developed countries in the region, it is also one of the most unequal, with huge pockets of urban and rural poor, who suffered most in the quake.

It was not just the violent shaking that tore apart Chile, but also the surge of waves that swept in along the coast, washing away homes.

A perception has begun to set in among many residents that the

country was not as well-prepared as it had thought. In Santiago, those left homeless after their brand-new and supposedly earthquake-resistant apartments suffered severe structural damage are furious. Chileans are wondering aloud why food is not getting to the hungry faster and why the politicians and soldiers seem unresponsive.

As each day passes, it becomes clearer in Chile that those needs are huge. The numbers of damaged buildings is increasing, not just from aftershocks but from troublemakers who have set fire to businesses in the damage zone.

President Michelle Bachelet has just 10 days left in office, leaving her successor, Sebastian Pinera, little time to get up to speed on governing. One official in the current administration, who did not have authorization to speak on the record, suggested that the looming transition was already complicating the government response.

As ‘untouchable’ army is forced to ebb, power realigns in Turkey

ISTANBUL — The detention of top military officers in Turkey last week was nothing less than a quiet piece of history. The military, long considered untouchable in Turkey, was pushed from its political pedestal with startling finality.

The moment, years in the making, was more whimper than bang. But now that it is here, it raises an existential question for this NATO member: What sort of country will Turkey be?

The question goes to the very heart of modern Turkey, a Muslim democracy whose military was a potent force in the country’s political life for most of its 86-year history. Its strictly secular ideology permeated all aspects of public life, including the education system, the judiciary and the bureaucracy. The military, long considered the ultimate guardian of that secularism, has overthrown elected governments to protect it.

Not only has the military been politically defanged, but it has proved unable or unwilling to fight back. Dozens of officers were detained last week, and several senior ones were arrested. Top military leaders met and managed to produce only a brief statement, never mind a coup.

“What came out of that?” said Baskin Oran, a professor of international relations at Ankara University. “A big nothing. This is finished. Turkey has crossed the border.”

Now the country is shedding its skin, sloughing off an outdated doctrine, but nervous about what will take its place.

“The old ideology is bankrupt, that much we know,” said Soli Ozel, a professor of political science at Bilgi University.

— Sabrina Tavernise, *The New York Times*

Supreme Court dismisses case on Guantanamo detainees

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said on Monday that it would not decide a case involving Chinese Muslims detained for eight years at Guantanamo Bay that had been set for argument this month.

The prisoners, captured in Afghanistan in 2001, have been determined to pose no threat to the United States, but the government has opposed their request to be released here.

In October, the court agreed to decide whether a federal judge in Washington had the power to order the men released into the United States. But other countries have recently said they would accept the detainees, and on Monday the justices said that factual developments since it agreed to hear the case “may affect the legal issues presented.” In an unsigned three-paragraph decision, the court erased the appeals court decision in the case and sent it back to the lower courts for re-examination.

The case involves prisoners at Guantanamo from the largely Muslim Uighur region of western China. The prisoners do not want to be returned to China, where they are considered terrorists and where they fear torture or execution.

— Adam Liptak, *The New York Times*

2,000 Dept. of Transportation furloughs linked to Congress

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Transportation said it furloughed 2,000 workers on Monday as a politically charged impasse over unemployment benefits interrupted spending on a handful of federal programs and escalated tensions in Congress.

With no quick resolution in sight, Democrats characterized the decision by one Republican to block the jobless aid and highway construction financing as an example of the practical consequences of regular opposition by Senate Republicans.

In an effort to end the stalemate, Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., who is insisting on a point of parliamentary procedure to block the legislation, offered to lift his objection if an agreement was made to use unspent economic stimulus money to cover the \$10 billion cost of the unemployment aid, which would go to those who have already exhausted their benefits.

“We cannot keep adding to the debt,” Bunning said Monday. “It’s over \$14 trillion and going up fast.”

But Democrats balked, saying that Republicans had not been concerned about requiring Bush administration initiatives to be paid for and that the unemployment aid amounted to an emergency.

— Carl Hulse, *The New York Times*

Celebrities fund shows in a new theatrical role: ‘Presenters’

Elton John hasn’t seen the Broadway play “Next Fall,” but he has invested a six-figure sum in the \$2 million production. Jay-Z, Will and Jada Pinkett Smith, and their business partners have put \$3 million into the Broadway musical “Fela!” And Lily Tomlin has just signed on as the lead promoter of a new one-man show off-Broadway.

In earlier eras, when Broadway spawned its own stars, Rodgers and Hammerstein or Andrew Lloyd Webber were imprimaturs of a good show; more recently theater producers have cast movie stars like Hugh Jackman and Jude Law to build an audience. Now the latest idea is tapping marquee names from pop culture as investors and “presenters.”

Such artists, who in general have put money into their shows, tend to have little to no creative involvement in them; instead they hope to use their prestige as tastemakers and trend-setters to help shows stand out at a time of declining theater attendance. With only about 30 percent of all Broadway plays and musicals turning a profit each season, celebrity promoters say that they could become a particular help to shows that lack household-name performers.

“There are no stars in the cast of ‘Next Fall,’ so I’m doing what I can to raise its profile with my profile,” said John, who is presenting “Next Fall” with his life and business partner, David Furnish, and who recently taped promotional material for the show.

— Patrick Healy, *The New York Times*

WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD

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BROUHAHA RHYTHM

Rain, rain, go away

April Showers? In March? The misery of puddles.

By Michael T. Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

What Boston rain lacks in intensity, it seems determined to make up for in persistence. Even if downpours are few and far between around here, three straight days of halfhearted rain will turn a grassy field into a swamp and a sidewalk into an archipelago of vaguely connected islands. Avoiding pneumonia being the reasonably high priority that it is, after submitting psets on time and a full eight minutes of sleep every night, it only seems intelligent to dress appropriately for the occasional minor flood.

It used to be that if I looked out the window and saw rain, I'd grab an umbrella on the way out the door and be on my merry little way. Of course, considering that Boston is probably windy enough to break the sound barrier standing still, a carelessly opened umbrella will last about as long as a Spock cosplayer at a Star Wars conven-

tion. The aerodynamic solution is a waterproof coat or jacket, which I've taken to adopting since coming here. For really severe weather, I have a full outfit of bright yellow rain pants and slicker. Not only does it keep the rain off, but it boosts my visibility for Massachusetts drivers and low-flying aircraft. It's also good for keeping dry on water rides at the amusement park, if you don't mind the funny looks (which I don't). Given that most people around this time of year will already be wearing heavy winter coats, though, I suppose it's not wet clothes that are the issue.

As far as rain-compatible footwear is concerned, it seems like most sneaker manufacturers aren't designing with wet-weather wear in mind, either because the waterproof parts of the shoe don't come up high enough, or because the mesh of the toe keeps water out about as well as a pasta strainer made out of cotton candy. Don't get me wrong, I love my chucks, but they're not the most water-resistant shoes

in the world. Not only is the canvas porous and the grommets on the side a direct avenue for puddle water entry, but I've had mine for so long that any more wear, and I suspect they may soon start capillary-actioning water up from the damp ground.

It used to be that if I looked out the window and saw rain, I'd grab an umbrella on the way out the door and be on my merry little way.

I've considered buying galoshes, but never really been compelled enough to follow through. At any rate, I have a pair of Scotch-garded hiking boots that do just fine. When

navigating a waterlogged campus requires increasing the number of safe puddles until all of the little patches of sidewalk are connected, an inch of waterproofing is plenty. The sauna-like effect that heavy boots have on my toes is a small price to pay in comparison.

Of course, Occam's razor suggests that if you want to avoid wet socks, you shouldn't wear socks. There's something to be said for wearing flip-flops or sandals in rainy conditions. If they're good enough for the beach or the pool, I guess they're good enough for a flash flood. Then again, the practicality of flip-flops in near-freezing temperatures depends a great deal on how attached you are to your toes. Personally, I'd rather avoid any conversation where I have to explain why I'm short a few little piggies. Now, if you'll excuse me, I have some engineering to do. I'm certain there's a way to effectively make sneakers wearable in rain, and duct-tape spats are first on my list of possible solutions.

VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRRESS

Zeroes and ones

After a breakup, dealing with the digital detritus

By M.

As MIT students, there is no doubt we spend a lot of time in front of a computer. We check our e-mail compulsively and procrastinate by IMing and Facebook-stalking former flames instead of writing that paper or finishing that pset. Naturally, the fact that we live with fingers glued to the keyboard affects our relationships.

I met a guy I dated through my computer. Well, sort of. Over the summer, he e-mailed me out of the blue, saying that he liked my blog and that I had good taste in movies. Before I knew who he was, I wrote back recommending some movies. Then curiosity got the best of me and I looked him up on Facebook, and my jaw dropped.

It was that guy I'd seen in lab a few times who I thought was dorky as fuck but sort of adorable.

And then it all began. We'd never talked before, but soon enough we became Facebook friends, we e-mailed, we texted, we IMed. He'd invaded all of my digital media within a week or two. We started going out when he got back to campus. The fact that we'd already gotten to know each other and got along so well meant that things went a bit faster and I fell really hard for him, really quickly.

Which didn't exactly help when he dumped me.

I could have always turned off my computer, true, but I'm sort of addicted to it.

After the break-up, he was still all over my computer. I didn't mind it before, but now it was vom-inducing to see him on my News Feed or to get his blog posts on my RSS. Even worse was the fact that he still IMed me. The day after breaking up, he poured

salt on my fresh wounds, by IMing me with me to ask if I was still going to a concert with him — um, NO! Every time he IMed me, it was like having the break-up talk all over again. I should've just signed off.

In addition to having him create new content for me to torture myself with, I liked revisiting old material. My iChat automatically logs all conversations, providing me with hours upon hours of reading and weeping. If I exhausted those, I could always search him on my inbox and his old e-mails would pop up because I never empty my trash. I could also read his blog if I wanted (not that he writes anything interesting, anyway). All of that, neatly archived in my computer for my convenience, made sitting at my desk feel like being tortured on an electric chair.

I could have always turned off my computer, true, but I'm sort of addicted to it. The fact that I check my e-mails compulsively meant that I was bound to see his every once in a while, and being on iChat all the time meant that I'd see when he was online, too. When things end, the last thing you need is to know is what he's up to. But the internet, which makes it so easy to get in touch, makes exes so unavoidable. If I was ever thinking about him, a few clicks here and there and I'd satisfy my craving. That doesn't make moving on any easier.

I found myself longing for the good old days when all evidence of a relationship was on paper form. If this was *The Notebook*, I would run the love letters through a paper shredder, but since it was just zeroes and ones, I went for the next best thing: delete.

I deleted everything. Those four-month-old texts that had been simmering in my phone, the old e-mails, the chat logs: Anything with his name on it was gone. I had been putting this off because I really liked him and I didn't want to accept that he was just not going to wake up and realize he'd made a horrible mistake, but as soon as I was done deleting him I wondered why the hell it hadn't occurred to me before. It was



ROBIN L. DAHAN—THE TECH

fucking liberating.

After that mess, I keep my e-interactions with guys to a minimum. I have conversations face-to-face instead of through a computer screen. Seeing what digital evidence of an affair does to me makes me think it's best I avoid that shit like the plague. And that internet affair had made me forget what

flirting with a guy in person felt like. Now I get the butterflies and everything when I see a guy in person, and not online. That's something words on a screen can never do for me.

M. is a junior in Course 10, and she prefers phone calls. Texting is expensive, anyway. She can be contacted at undress@tech.mit.edu.



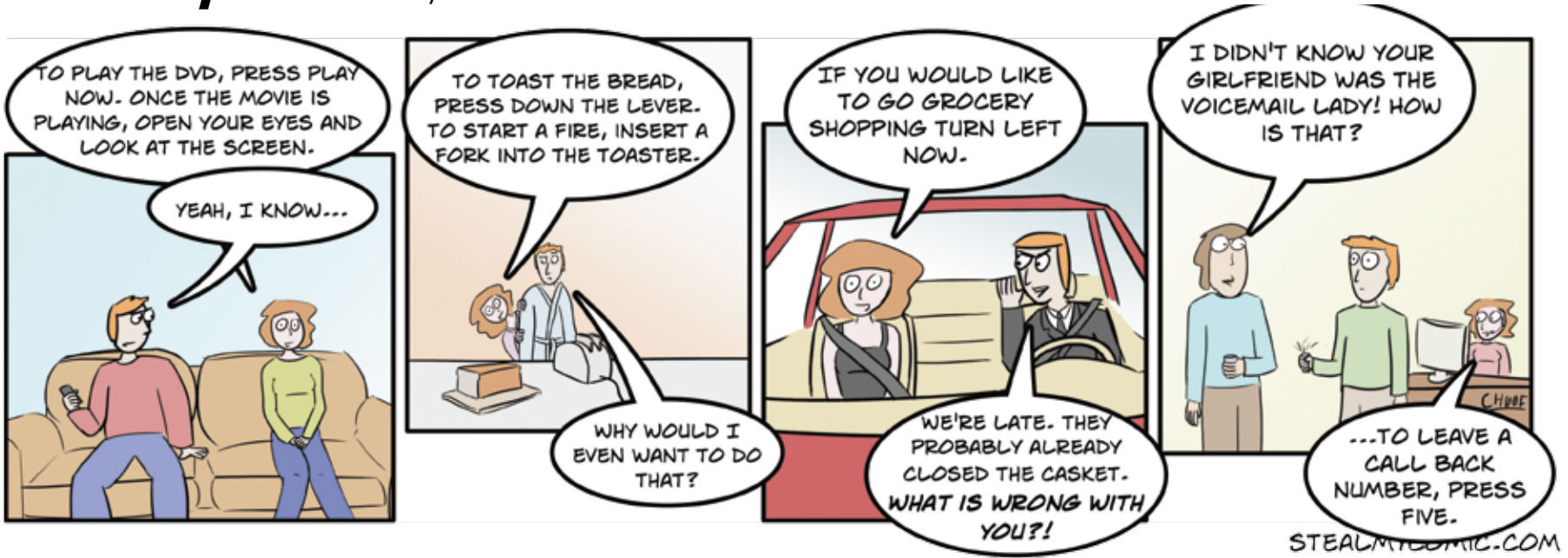
Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us!

Write for Campus Life. join@tech.mit.edu

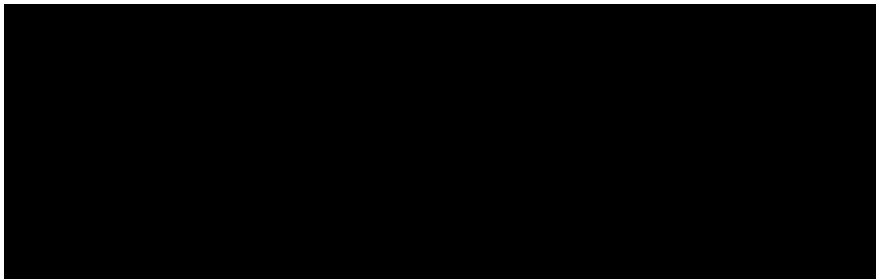
Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Doonesbury

by Garry Trudeau



Dilbert

by Scott Adams



Here's Your Reality Program



by Jerry Holkins
and Mike Krahulik



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 9

ACROSS

- 1 Subtle info
- 5 Garners
- 10 Cyberspace place
- 14 Grunted denial
- 15 White heron
- 16 Smell
- 17 God of discord
- 18 Xenophobic fear
- 20 Short synopsis
- 22 Comment in the margin
- 23 Hotsy-__
- 25 Acacia tree
- 26 Sure thing
- 29 Acrophobic fear
- 33 For two, in music
- 34 Tennessee's streetcar
- 36 Drivers' org.
- 37 Heron's cousin
- 39 Primary color
- 40 Invitation replies
- 42 Rib
- 43 Put the whammy on
- 46 "QB VII" author
- 47 Arachnophobic fear
- 49 Chicken coop
- 51 Clue dir.
- 52 Fossil resin
- 53 Isolation
- 57 Addictive drug

- 61 Agoraphobic fear
- 63 Joyless
- 64 Fisherman's chum
- 65 Threefold
- 66 Steering mechanism
- 67 Do in
- 68 On-court stabbing victim
- 69 See ya!

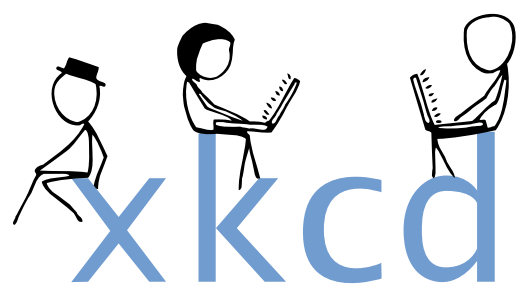
DOWN

- 1 Wahine's dance
- 2 Flapjack chain
- 3 Microwave?
- 4 Triskaideka-phobic fear
- 5 Shot down
- 6 Self-image
- 7 Display
- 8 Part of a hammerhead
- 9 Lead balloon
- 10 "Illness as Metaphor" writer
- 11 Creative spark
- 12 Civil wrong
- 13 Gaelic tongue
- 19 More viscous
- 21 Male swan
- 24 Aft areas

- 26 Defensive stats
- 27 "With blood the trees were all __" (Bierce)
- 28 King of Egypt, 1922-36
- 29 Cab Calloway catch phrase
- 30 Le __, France
- 31 Tropical ungulate
- 32 Smart-alecky
- 35 Form query
- 38 Casts out
- 41 Heliophobic fear
- 44 Breaks into
- 45 Removes from office
- 48 Delicate
- 50 Snooze
- 52 Seasick sea serpent
- 53 Breaks into tears
- 54 October stone
- 55 "Star Wars" princess
- 56 Be gutsy
- 58 Vicinity
- 59 Slant
- 60 Thompson of "Wit"
- 62 WSW opposite

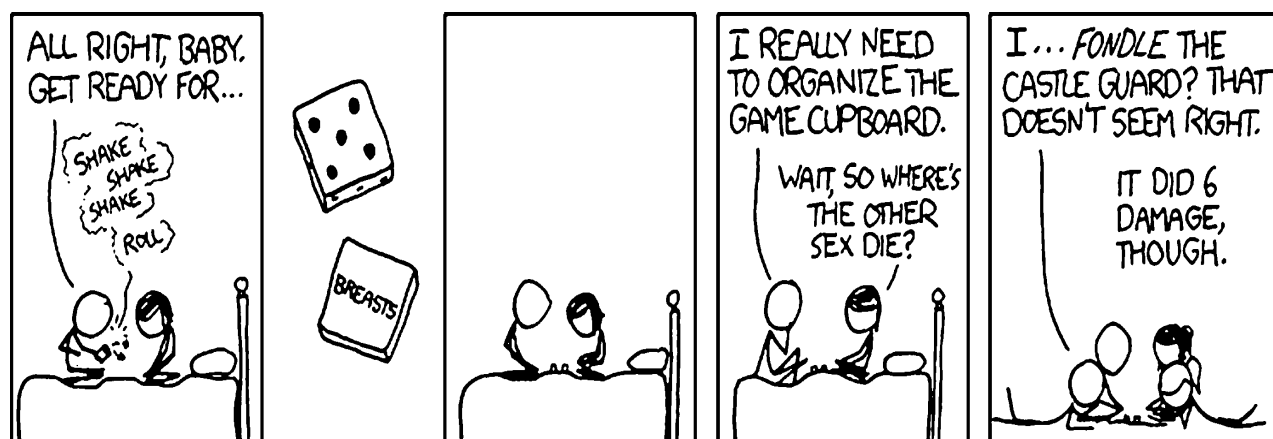
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Sex Dice

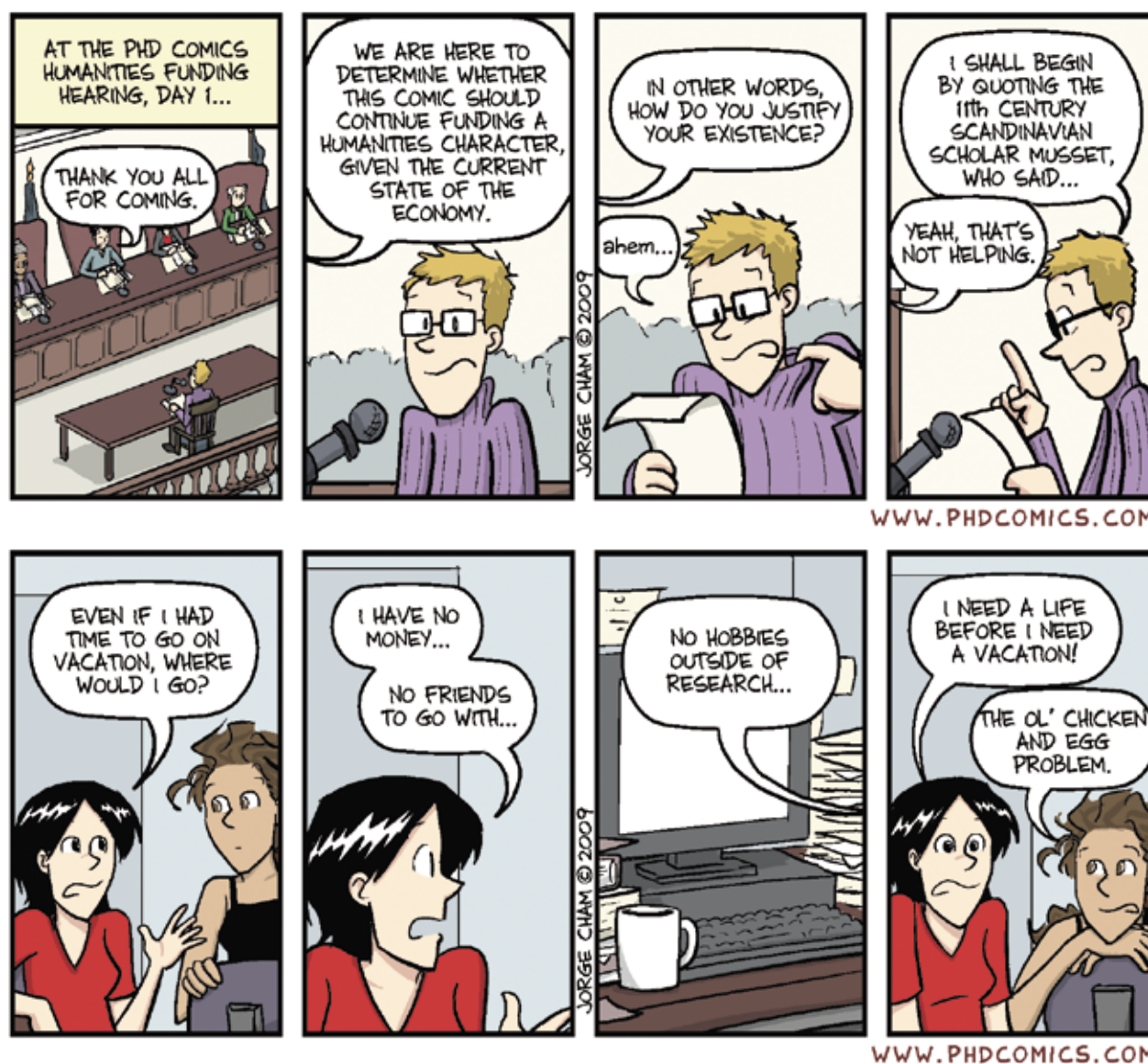


**A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE,
SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE**

by Randall Munroe



You roll for initiative, and ... [roll] ... wow, do you ever take it.



Easy Sudoku

Solution, page 9

	6			9		3		
					3	1	6	9
3			4				8	5
	5							6
9		6				7		4
8							5	
1	4				7			2
5	3	9	8					
		7		4			3	

Hard Sudoku

Solution, page 9

2		8	9		3	6		
	9		8					
4	5			7				
5					6		9	4
	2						6	
6	3		7					1
				1			5	3
					7		1	
		9	3		5	2		6

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

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Official campaigns begin tomorrow

Late P/VP petitions due Thurs

UA Elections, from Page 1

accountable for the rules.

Modi said that even if he and Wyman remained the only pair running for UA President and Vice President, they would “still campaign seriously” and try to represent the entire undergraduate community.

Members of the UA said that the low number of candidates does not necessarily indicate a general lack of interest among the undergraduates in the UA.

“The number of people who run is not reflective of people interested in the UA, it’s reflective of those who want to spend the time necessary,” said UA Senator from Fraternities Richard A. Dahan ’12.

“Overall, this past year we’ve engaged the students well. The level of students caring and not caring has nothing to do with who is running,” said UA Vice President Margaret K. Delano ’10.

Other UA members expressed the idea that students may hesitate to run because of the time commitment.

“I’m personally not interested [in running for UA President]...it’s a lot of work, and it would distract me from my other activities,” said Senate Speaker Tim Stumbaugh ’12.

Even though the election uses preferential voting, in which voters get to rank their candidates, the UA ballot allows voting for only one write-in candidate. Some students complained during the fall UA elections that this procedure forced them to choose between write-in candidates. While “some students grumbled,” no official complaints were filed, Kim said, so no changes were made for this election.

The UA will announce an official list of all candidates for the spring election late tonight. Positions available are UA President and Vice President, as well as class council positions.

Electronic voting for the spring election begins midnight Tuesday, March 16 and ends midnight Friday, March 19. Paper voting will take place Friday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lobby 10. The winners will be announced midnight on Saturday, March 20.

MIT paid \$6,000 to Charles Clean Up Boat in ’07

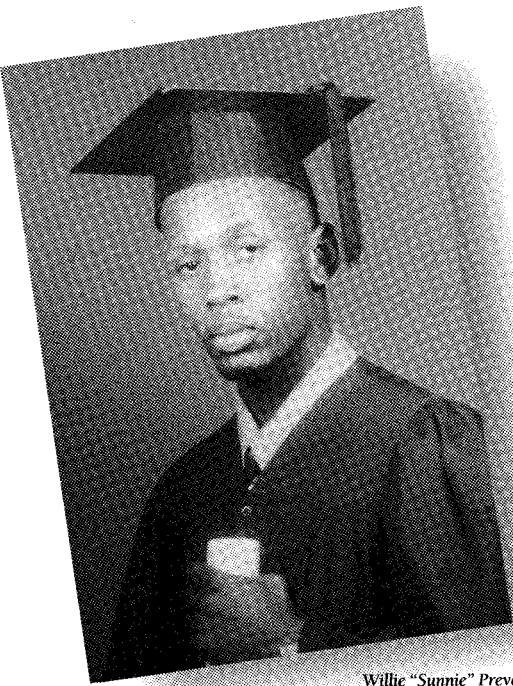
TEP, from Page 1

object caused an explosion which resulted in chemical burns to Soisson and Nardin and to three of the paramedics sent to treat them. State Police chemists later identified it as a block of sodium metal,

Hefty decontamination fees for the Boat also threatened the future of the nonprofit, but MIT made a donation of \$6,000.

After learning of its infamous sodium drops, local media sources like WBZ-TV News speculated that the sodium originated at MIT. The media originally linked the incident to the East Campus sodium drop. At the time, the Massachusetts State Police had named no suspects in the investigation.

The Charles River Clean Up Boat could not be reached for comment.



Willie “Sunnie” Prevo
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Killed: May 28, 1992
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Solution to Crossword

from page 6

H	I	N	T	R	E	A	P	S	S	I	T	E
U	H	U	H	E	G	R	E	T	O	D	O	R
L	O	K	I	F	O	R	E	I	G	N	E	R
A	P	E	R	C	U	A	N	N	O	T	A	T
			T	O	T	S	Y	K	O	A		
S	A	F	E	B	E	T	H	E	I	G	H	T
A	D	U	E	D	E	S	I	R	E	A	A	A
C	R	A	N	E	R	E	D	R	S	V	P	S
K	I	D	J	I	N	X	E	D	U	R	I	S
S	P	I	D	E	R	S	H	E	N	N	E	R
			A	C	R		C	O	P	A	L	
S	O	L	I	T	U	D	E	O	P	I	A	T
O	P	E	N	S	P	A	C	E	S	G	R	I
B	A	I	T	T	R	I	N	E	H	E	L	M
S	L	A	Y	S	E	L	E	S	T	A	T	A

Solution to Sudoku (Easy)

from page 7

2	6	5	1	9	8	3	4	7
7	8	4	2	5	3	1	6	9
3	9	1	4	7	6	2	8	5
4	5	3	7	2	9	8	1	6
9	1	6	3	8	5	7	2	4
8	7	2	6	1	4	9	5	3
1	4	8	5	3	7	6	9	2
5	3	9	8	6	2	4	7	1
6	2	7	9	4	1	5	3	8

Solution to Sudoku (Hard)

from page 7

2	1	8	9	4	3	6	7	5
7	9	6	8	5	1	4	3	2
4	5	3	6	7	2	1	8	9
5	8	7	1	2	6	3	9	4
9	2	1	5	3	4	8	6	7
6	3	4	7	9	8	5	2	1
8	6	2	4	1	9	7	5	3
3	4	5	2	6	7	9	1	8
1	7	9	3	8	5	2	4	6

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Decision hoped for by end of term

Stellar committee may implement summer pilot

Stellar, from Page 1

Ethan A. Solomon '12, the undergraduate representative on the LMS Committee (also an opinion editor for *The Tech*), said that the Committee is focusing on integrating various MIT resources into Stellar; for example, making lectures from OpenCourseWare directly accessible from within Stellar.

People working on the project said that the changes would not require end users to adapt to an unfamiliar new system. “It’s not our intention to have something that will make the learning curve incredibly steep,” said Joanna Proulx of IS&T.

IS&T began investigating the viability of the current version of Stellar in winter 2008. Following surveys issued to faculty and students regarding functionality they wanted to see in Stellar Next Generation, IS&T evaluated six candidate platforms for replacing Stellar: Moodle 1.9, Moodle-Rooms, Drupal 6, Sakai 2, Sakai 3 and BlackBoard 9.

The platforms were evaluated on their ease of implementation and for satisfactory functionality.

Of the six, Sakai 3, Drupal 6, and BlackBoard 9 were selected as potential replacements.

The LMS Committee, composed of faculty, administrative staff, and one undergraduate, was formed in collaboration with IS&T last fall to examine Stellar

People working on the project said that the changes would not require end users to adapt to an unfamiliar new system.

from the perspective of users, rather than developers. “We’re thinking about how people actually teach and learn and what we can do to support that. Then we work our way back to see what platform or strategy will support that goal, rather than focusing on the operational side of the platform first,” said Proulx.

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A student examines a display of origami submissions at the 9th Annual Student Origami Competition in the student center on Monday. This competition is judged by officers and alumni of OrigaMIT.

SEAN TANG—THE TECH

Electronic billboards called another distraction

Advocates claim digital billboards, with rotating images, distract drivers

By Matt Richtel
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Safety advocates who worry about the dangers of distracted driving have a new concern beyond cell phones and gadget-laden dashboards: digital roadside billboards. These high-tech billboards marry the glow of Times Square with the immediacy of the Internet. Images change every six to eight seconds, so advertisers can flash timely messages — like the latest headlines, coffee deals at dawn, a cheeseburger at lunchtime or even the song playing on a radio station at that moment.

The billboard industry asserts there is no research indicating they cause crashes, and notes that the signs do not use video or animation.

But to critics, these ever-changing, bright billboards are “television on a stick” and give drivers, many of them already calling and texting, yet another reason to take their eyes off the road.

Abby Dart, executive director of Scenic Michigan, a nonprofit group trying to block construction of new digital billboards in the state, calls the signs “weapons of mass distraction” and says they can be more dangerous than phones.

“You can turn off your phone,” she said. “The billboard gets your attention whether you want to give it or not.”

Last Thursday, Michigan lawmakers held hearings on legislation, the first of its kind, that would impose a two-year moratorium on the construction of new billboards. Minnesota’s Legislature is scheduled to hold hearings this month on a similar moratorium. As digital billboards begin to pop up around the country, questions about whether to regulate the emerging technology are being asked in other states as well, and by federal officials.

The Federal Highway Administration has been conducting a study, which it says will be completed this summer, that uses eye-trackers inside cars to see whether drivers who have volunteered for the study look at the digital billboards, and for how long. The agency also has organized a tour

To critics, these ever-changing, bright billboards are “television on a stick” and give drivers, many of them already calling and texting, yet another reason to take their eyes off the road.

this spring to take researchers to various cities around the world to study how other nations are regulating digital billboards.

In the United States, only about 2,000 of the nation’s 450,000 billboards are digitized, but the industry expects there to be tens of thousands of them, as many as 15 percent of its overall inventory.

The signs are typically used in busy traffic areas, where advertisers are willing to pay a premium for them. A digital billboard costs \$250,000 to \$300,000, roughly half what it did five years ago, but much more than the \$5,000 to \$50,000 for a traditional billboard.

Space on the digital signs fetches a premium in part because up to six advertisers can share a single location. Traditional billboards fetch a wide range of monthly rents (from \$1,000 to \$5,000 depending

on location and audience) and the digital versions cost the same or a bit more, but the industry benefits by selling that space at that price to more than one advertiser.

Rather than settling the matter, existing research about digital billboards leaves room for debate on the danger.

One 2007 study, from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, which used in-car cameras to study motorists, found that digital billboards did not change driver behavior more than ordinary billboards.

But critics note that the study was financed by the billboard industry and that it was found to be biased by reviewers who rejected it for publication in 2008 by the Transportation Research Board, a congressionally chartered agency.

Even the researcher who led the Virginia Tech institute project, Suzanne Lee, while defending her science as sound, said that the potential for drivers to be distracted by the new billboards — and digital signs that use video and animation — should be investigated further.

“If we don’t study this, and get on top of it right now while the capabilities are expanding, every roadway will be filled with flashing lights and video,” said Lee.

For decades, the Federal Highway Administration has provided regulations to states governing free-standing billboards that prohibit them from having “flashing, intermittent or moving light or lights.”

But in 2007, the agency ruled that the free-standing digital billboards did not violate the rule and recommended, among other guidelines, that ads on those billboards stay in place at least four seconds and that they not be “unreasonably bright.”

Last week, the Georgetown Institute for Public Representation, a public interest law group, filed a

petition with the highway administration asking it to reverse the earlier decision, which would have the effect of banning new digital billboards that include flashing, intermittent or moving lights, and requiring the dismantling of existing ones.

The billboard industry argues that the new signs are part of a larger technological and economic shift to a paperless society (no more crews hoisting and removing ads from billboards) and that they give advertisers more flexibility.

Marketing materials published last year by Clear Channel, one of the nation’s biggest billboard companies, say the digital billboards are, among other things, ideal for posting game scores by advertisers like radio stations and sports bars. News organizations can also use them — “as the Web site headline changes, so does the digital billboard,” the materials say.

The billboard industry argues that the new signs are part of a larger technological and economic shift to a paperless society... and that they give advertisers more flexibility.

“It’s a very flexible, very responsible medium and very impactful,” said Ron Cooper, chief executive of Clear Channel Outdoor, which has 450 digital billboards and plans to add 150 more this year. Big corporations that have used them include ABC, AT&T, Coca-Cola, McDonald’s, General Mills, Ford and

Verizon. “Consumers report seeing it, remembering the brand, remembering the advertisers.”

He and others in the industry say they have been careful to make the signs memorable but not distracting. They say the “television on a stick” label is an exaggeration.

“It’s a slide projector — it shows one image after the next,” said Bill Ripp, a vice president who oversees digital billboards for Lamar Advertising, another large billboard company. “We were as concerned as anybody. We wouldn’t want to cause danger.”

The industry has found an ally in some crime-fighting groups and agencies, including the FBI and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which use the new signs to broadcast images of fugitives or of abducted children.

“We’ve had moms grab their sons by the ear and drag them right down to the sheriff’s office because they were embarrassed to see the son on the billboard,” said Bart Dexter, coordinator of the Michigan Crime Stoppers organization, who opposes the Michigan moratorium.

Dart, from Scenic Michigan, said the potential driver distraction outweighs any help the signs may provide in catching fugitives.

Rebekah Warren, a Democratic state representative from Ann Arbor, who proposed the moratorium, said the bill reflected broader concerns that legislators around the country had about distracted driving. In December, the Michigan House of Representatives passed legislation banning motorists from texting, something its Senate now is considering.

“We are moving so quickly into this digital age,” said Warren. “We are being cautious in state legislatures around the country on how we keep drivers focused on the road.”

